

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00585 231326Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 MC-02 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /050 W

-----231341Z 016107 /44

R 231242Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6977

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

S E C R E T JIDDA 0585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI DESIRE TO ACQUIRE F-15 AIRCRAFT

REF JIDDA 0127

1. AMBASSADOR AND DEFENSE ATTACHE MET WITH MINDEF SULTAN ON JAN 19. AMB PORTER MENTIONED RECENT SAUDI REFERENCES TO THEIR INTEREST IN ACQUIRING NEW AIRCRAFT. HE ADDED THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE STUDIED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. MINDEF SULTAN REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT A NEW SUBJECT, SINCE IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SECSTATE KISSINGER OVER A YEAR AGO AND AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED. KISSINGER HAD CONCURRED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SAG TO REPLACE OUTMODED AIRCRAFT WITH F-14'S, F-15'S OR F-16'S. IT WAS AGREED, MINDEF SAID, THAT SAG WOULD SEND A COMMITTEE OF AVIATORS AND TECHNICIANS TO THE U.S. TO EXAMINE THE AIRCRAFT AND TO DETERMINE WHICH WAS MOST SUITABLE FOR SAUDI ARABIAN NEEDS. THIS WAS DONE. ONE MONTH AGO THE DECISION WAS MADE THAT THE SAG WOULD REQUIRE THE NEW AIRCRAFT A YEAR AND A HALF FROM NOW, AND A LETTER HAD BEEN PREPARED REQUESTING THEM. SPECIFICALLY, SAG WILL REQUEST 50 F-15'S, TO INCLUDE 40 FIGHTERS AND 10 OF TWO SEAT CONFIGURATION FOR TRAINERS. HE IS READY TO DELIVER THE LETTER.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 00585 231326Z

2. AMB SAID THIS INFORMATION WAS HELPFUL AND WOULD BE USEFUL IN BRIEFING THE NEW USG, BUT REQUESTED THAT SULTAN DELAY SENDING US THE LETTER, AWAITING FURTHER WORD. SULTAN INDICATED HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO WAITING, BUT THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MINDEF SULTAN REQUESTED THAT ANY FURTHER WORD BE PROVIDED BEFORE FEB 1, SINCE SAG WISHED TO SEND THE LETTER SOMETIME BETWEEN FEB 1 AND FEB 15. AMB PORTER ASSURED THE MINDEF OF HIS

CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND SAID HE WOULD REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: FROM HIS REFERENCE TO SECSTATE KISSINGER'S VISIT, IT IS CLEAR THAT MINDEF SULTAN FEELS THE USG HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE SAG WITH ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. INDEED, DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS REINFORCED THAT VIEW DURING HIS VISIT IN OCT 76, STATING THAT THE SAG COULD PURCHASE WHICHEVER ADVANCED FIGHTER--INCLUDING THE F-15--THEY PREFERRED.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA00585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0796
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770126/aaaaawvb.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0fb7b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 127
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3527395
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI DESIRE TO ACQUIRE F-15 AIRCRAFT
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fb7b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009